Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 25: Cancelled

26. (Previously presented) A method of extracting at least one plate from, and/or inserting at least one plate into, a stack of plates from below, including the steps of:

providing at least two rests for supporting the stack of plates;

horizontally moving the rests out of and/or into the of the stack of plates; and

for each extraction and/or insertion process, rotating the stack of plates through a prescribed angle of rotation, wherein such rotational movement is combined with the horizontal movement of the rests.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 for extracting at least one plate from a stack of plates from below, including the steps of:

a) supporting the stack of plates with at least two of the rests, wherein a lowermost plate of the stack of plates rests on rim portions of the rests;

b) raising the stack of plates such that the rests are freed from said lowermost plate;

c) horizontally moving the rests out the range of the stack of plates;

d) lowering the stack of plates to such an extent that the rests are disposed at a level between said lowermost plate and a plate disposed thereabove.

e) horizontally moving the rests into a space between said lowermost plate and that plate disposed thereabove; and

f) lowering said stack of plates further until a second lowermost plate rests

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 for inserting a plate into a stack of plates from below, including the steps of:

g) transporting the plate that is to be inserted belowthe stack of plates;

h) raising the plate that is to be inserted until the stack of plates rests thereupon;

i) raising the plate that is to be inserted, and the stack of plates resting thereupon, further such that a lowermost plate of a stack of plates is freed from the rests that support the stack of plates;

j) horizontally moving the rests out of the range of the stack of plates;

k) further raising the plate that is to be inserted, together with the stack 1 of plates resting thereupon, until the rests are disposed at a level below the plate that is to be inserted;

l) horizontally moving the rests 3 below the plate that is to be inserted; and

m) lowering the plate that is to be inserted and the stack of plates resting thereupon, until it rests upon the rests.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26, which includes providing a single device for both an extraction as well as an insertion process.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim ~~36~~ 26, wherein said rests are moved out of the range of said stack of plates when a plate is raised or lowered past said rests.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein a plate extracted from a first stack of plates is inserted into an adjacent stack of plates.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein an extracted plate and/or a plate that is to be inserted is transported horizontally.

33. (Previously presented) A device for extracting a plate from, and inserting a plate into, a stack of plates from below, comprising:

at least one lifting device for vertically raising and lowering a plate and/or a stack of plates, wherein said at least one lifting device is provided with a plate seating means that is rotatable through a prescribed angle of rotation, and wherein said plate seating means has a horizontal cam profile; and

at least one plate supporting device having at least two rests for supporting the plates or the stack of plates.

34. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein the rests of the plate supporting device have a vertical cam profile that cooperates with the horizontal cam profile of the plate seating means.

35. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 34, wherein the plate supporting device is provided with a biasing device for pressing the vertical cam profile against the horizontal cam profile of the plate seating means.

36. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 35, wherein the biasing device 15 is a weight or a spring.

37. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 35, wherein a control surface of the horizontal cam profile is formed such that upon rotation of the plate seating means in a first direction of rotation, the control surface presses the biasing device radially upwardly and out of the range of the stack of plates, and upon rotation of the plate seating means in a further direction of rotation, the control surface permits a controlled horizontal movement of the rests radially inwardly into the range of the stack of plates.

38. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 34, wherein a control surface of the vertical cam profile is formed such that upon lowering of the at least one lifting device, the control surface is movable radially inwardly into the range of the stack of plates, and upon raising of the lifting device, the control device is movable radially outwardly out of the range of the stack of plates.

39. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein a horizontal conveyor belt is provided for transporting an extracted plate and/or a plate that is to be inserted.

40. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein at least two stacks of plates are provided, each with at least one lifting device and at least two plate supporting devices.

41. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 40, wherein the lifting devices are provided with a common stroke-type driver device.

42. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 40, wherein the plate seating means of the at least two lifting devices are provided with a common rotary-type driver device.

43. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein the plates 9 are in the form of pallets for accommodating disks or substrates.

44. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein central portions of the plates 9 are provided with a vertically upwardly projecting stud that, in the stack of plates, centers a plate disposed above the first mentioned plate.

45. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein outer portions of plates in a stack of plates are spaced from one another.

46. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 43, wherein the disks are optical data carriers.

47. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 43, wherein the stack is disposed in a cylinder in which the plates, pallets and/or disks are subjected to a stream of treatment medium, in particular a cooling medium.